

Shff & 3 Deputies are now in Town & they shall all be in the saddle in 10 minutes!

After much fluttering, Mr. R. agreed if the Shff would deputize some *Democrats* he would try to have his s'pos executed. N. gave him notice that he should regard B. bound by the notice already accepted by me, & should treat his failure as a virtual *abandonment* of the contest.

They probably have had but one hope from the first, & that was to prop their spurious voters by proof of their qualifications rather than to attack any of mine. But I am told they can do neither.

I asked the Shff this morning whether they could help themselves or hurt us & he is certain they cannot.

They cannot produce 5 on the Whig side, he says very confidently. I think now I will not go down before the end of next week, as I can do nothing till the proof is there.

From Robert Hall Morrison.

U.

Cottage Home,

Decr. 18th, 1848.

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Receive my thanks for your kindness in sending your Message. After a careful perusal I have no hesitation in regarding it, as one of the most dignified and able State Papers I have seen for many a day.

I congratulate you on the very high estimation in which your administration is held by the public.

We are all well at home. Majr. Hill ⁵⁶ and Isabella went by

⁵⁶ Daniel Harvey Hill (1821-1889), a native of South Carolina, graduate of West Point, was a lieutenant in the Mexican War, and came out a brevet major. He resigned in 1849 to become a professor at Washington College, where he remained for five years. He was, briefly, a professor at Davidson, and then became superintendent of the North Carolina Military Institute. As colonel of a North Carolina regiment, he was in command at Bethel in 1861. He rose successively from brigadier in 1861 to lieutenant in 1864. He was removed from command of the Western Army because of his protest against Bragg, and had a bitter quarrel with President Davis for refusing him a court of inquiry. After the war he was an editor for some years, president of the University of Arkansas, 1877-1884, and then of the Georgia Military and Agricultural College. He was one of the three distinguished Confederate soldiers who married daughters of Graham's sister, Mrs. Robert Hall Morrison.